

Tuesday – March 27, 2007 - 5:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Present: Mayor Terry M. Bellamy, Presiding; Vice-Mayor Diana Hollis Jones; Councilwoman Robin L. Cape; Councilman Jan B. Davis; Councilman Bryan E. Freeborn (arrived in meeting at 5:18 ); Councilman R. Carl Mumpower; Councilman Brownie W. Newman; City Manager Gary W. Jackson; City Attorney Robert W. Oast Jr.; and City Clerk Keisha Lipe

Absent: None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Cub Scout Pack 45 led City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION**

Councilman Davis gave the invocation.

**I. PROCLAMATIONS:**

**II. CONSENT AGENDA:**

At the request of Councilman Mumpower, Consent Agenda Items “B” and “C” were removed from the Consent Agenda for individual votes.

**A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 20, 2007**

**B. RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO ADVERTISE AN OFFER OF PURCHASE FOR UPSET BIDS REGARDING AIRSPACE AT 11 BOSTON WAY**

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda for an individual vote.

**C. RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO ADVERTISE AN OFFER OF PURCHASE FOR UPSET BIDS REGARDING AIRSPACE AT 82 PATTON AVENUE**

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda for an individual vote.

**D. ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY UPDATE**

Summary: Since the Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment (SACEE) initial meeting in late January, the Committee has met bi-weekly in an effort to formulate two (2) short term goal recommendations by March 31<sup>st</sup>, as directed by City Council in their December 13, 2006, meeting. Due to the volume of information and a need for further research, the SACEE requests a 30-day extension.

In December City Council directed the newly formed SACEE to bring forth two specific recommendations before March 31, 2007, as follows:

- 1) Define (with benchmarks) specific energy & conservation goals for Asheville; and,
- 2) Develop specific guidelines for future municipal facilities to be LEED certified.

The SACEE's membership has been diligently researching the multiple options available. Furthermore, benchmarking data has shown a wide variance in the goals and logic behind them; therefore, in order to confidently bring forth thoughtful, attainable and pragmatic recommendations for Council review and action, it is the consensus of the Committee that there is insufficient information to make such recommendations by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The SACEE is confident that an additional 30-day extension will provide the time to more thoughtfully formulate sound recommendation(s).

Staff recommends City Council approves a 30-day extension to the Sustainable Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment.

**E. RESOLUTION NO. 07-78- RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SWORN POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS BY ONE FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING A DEDICATED SPECIALIZED CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER ASSIGNED TO PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to increase the number of sworn police officer positions by one for the purpose of having a dedicated Specialized Crime Prevention Officer assigned to public housing in the City of Asheville and associated budget amendment, in the amount of \$58,137, which includes necessary equipment and vehicle purchases.

The Police Department in an ongoing effort to facilitate quality of life improvement in Asheville's public housing, in conjunction with the Housing Authority of the City of Asheville and to further assist in the reduction of illegal drug sale and use in public housing needs to expand crime prevention programs solely dedicated to public housing residents. There is not sufficient staff to dedicate full time efforts to the unique problems and concerns of public housing residents. This additional position will work closely with the Weed and Seed Coordinator as well as the Drug Suppression Unit to ensure that effective programs are in place to maximize positive returns for overall improvement for residents. The uniqueness of public housing issues must be a multi-level approach and a dedicated crime prevention officer will facilitate educational, protective concepts and functions for a safer living community in public housing.

Pros:

- Continuing education of public housing residents as to strategies for safety and protection
- Introduction of programs designed to encourage community bonding and increased security
- Facilitation of cooperative programs which will assist a variety of needs in the area of health care, jobs, child care, home security and overall quality of life improvement
- Community programs specifically designed for children and youth mentoring
- Closer relationships between residents and police
- Increasing the sense of ownership and responsibility for residents
- Safer communities

Cons:

- Budget ramifications for one additional sworn officer position

City staff recommends City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to increase the number of sworn police officer positions by one for the purpose of having a dedicated Specialized Crime Prevention Officer assigned to public housing in the City of Asheville and associated budget amendment, in the amount of \$58,137, which includes necessary equipment and vehicle purchases. Staff recommends that this additional expense be funded with sales tax revenue.

**RESOLUTION BOOK NO. 30 – PAGE 286**

**F. ORDINANCE NO. 3455 - BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR A DEDICATED SPECIALIZED CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER**

Summary: See Consent Agenda Item “E” above.

**ORDINANCE BOOK NO. 23 - PAGE**

Mayor Bellamy said that members of Council have been previously furnished with a copy of the resolutions and ordinances on the Consent Agenda and they would not be read.

Councilwoman Cape moved for the adoption of the Consent Agenda. This motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Jones and carried unanimously.

**ITEMS TAKEN OFF THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR INDIVIDUAL VOTES**

Because the two items removed from the Consent Agenda are of a similar nature, discussion of them both took place at the same time.

**B. RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO ADVERTISE AN OFFER OF PURCHASE FOR UPSET BIDS REGARDING AIRSPACE AT 11 BOSTON WAY**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution directing the City Clerk to advertise an offer of purchase for upset bids regarding airspace at 11 Boston Way.

A bid has been received from Kessler Asheville LLC in the amount of \$11,665 for the purchase of air space at 11 Boston Way.

The property at 11 Boston Way is the former Exxon Station across from the Biltmore Estate entrance. The project which is called Bohemian Hotel at Biltmore Village proposes to construct a four (4) story, 89 key boutique hotel. The project received approval from the Historic Resources Commission on October 11, 2006, approval from the Technical Review Committee on November 6, 2006, and approval of the building plans by the Building Safety Department for a Building Permit subject to acquisition of the air space for the balconies.

The air space for the balconies over the sidewalk totals 890± S.F. beginning at approximately 18 feet above the sidewalk and projecting over the sidewalk 5.25 feet. Past appraisals indicate that the value of air space for balconies projecting over rights of way is 20% of the per square foot land value of the property from which the balcony projects applied to the horizontal area of the airspace. This method was used to extrapolate a value for the air space using an appraisal of the property at 11 Boston Way dated February 13, 2006, adjusted for time. The estimated value of the air space is \$11,665.

The bid from Kessler Asheville LLC is to acquire the air space for the balconies for the sum of \$11,665.

**Pros:**

1. The sale will be at fair market value.
2. It will facilitate an increase in the tax base.
3. It will accommodate characteristics of the building design intended to conform to the historic nature of Biltmore Village.

Con: There is no negative impact.

Economic Development staff recommends City Council approve a resolution directing the City Clerk to advertise an offer of purchase for upset bids regarding airspace at 11 Boston Way.

**C. RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO ADVERTISE AN OFFER OF PURCHASE FOR UPSET BIDS REGARDING AIRSPACE AT 82 PATTON AVENUE**

Summary: The consideration of a resolution directing the City Clerk to advertise an offer of purchase for upset bids regarding airspace at 82 Patton Avenue.

A bid has been received from Urban Capital LLC in the amount of \$3,350 for the purchase of air space at 82 Patton Avenue.

The property at 82 Patton Avenue is the former First Union Bank building. The project which is called Capital Center proposes to renovate the building into office condominiums. Along with interior redesign the building will receive a new facade which will include balconies extending out over the sidewalk in a bowed pattern to a maximum distance of 4' with a view of Pritchard Park. The project has received Level 1 approval from Planning & Development, unanimous approval from Downtown Design Review and the plans have been approved by the Building Safety Department for a Building Permit subject to acquisition of the air space for the balconies. The air space for the balconies over the sidewalk totals 216.6 ± S.F. and begins at approximately 16 feet above the sidewalk. Past appraisals indicate that the value of air space for balconies projecting over rights of way is 20% of the per square foot land value of the property from which the balcony projects applied to the horizontal area of the airspace. This method was used to extrapolate a value for the air space using the tax assessment for the property at 82 Patton Avenue. The estimated value of the air space is \$3,350.

The bid from Urban Capital LLC is to acquire the air space for the balconies for the sum of \$3,350.

Pros:

1. The sale will be at fair market value.
2. It will facilitate an increase in the tax base.
3. It will accommodate the connectivity of public and private space for a more robust downtown environment.

Con: There is no negative impact.

Economic Development staff recommends City Council approve a resolution directing the City Clerk to advertise an offer of purchase for upset bids regarding airspace at 82 Patton Avenue.

Real Estate Manager Ed Vess responded to Councilman Mumpower's concern whether Asheville is getting fair value for the air rights.

Councilman Mumpower moved for the adoption of a resolution directing the City Clerk to advertise an offer of purchase for upset bids regarding airspace at 11 Boston Way and 82 Patton Avenue. This motion was seconded by Councilman Davis.

Mayor Bellamy felt this amount doesn't reflect the true market value for air rights in our community.

Councilman Mumpower asked that in the future City staff provide Council with additional research to substantiate the price for air rights.

Councilman Davis suggested Mr. Vess benchmark other cities of our size and type to see how they determine the amount of their air rights. Until that information is obtained, he withdrew his second.

Upon inquiry of Councilman Mumpower, Mr. Vess said that a delay of this action, until further information is obtained, will delay the projects.

Councilman Newman seconded Councilman Mumpower's motion to adopt the resolution directing the City Clerk to advertise an offer of purchase for upset bids regarding airspace at 11 Boston Way and 82 Patton Avenue. This motion failed on a 3-3 vote, with Councilwoman Cape, Councilman Mumpower and Councilman Newman voting "yes" and Mayor Bellamy, Vice-Mayor Jones and Councilman Davis voting "no."

It was the consensus of Council to instruct Mr. Vess to look at comparable cities that are selling air rights that have a market similar to Asheville.

### **III. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS:**

#### **A. ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY REPORT**

Councilman Freeborn, Chair of the Asheville Regional Airport Authority, presented Council with an Airport overview. He said that the 2006 traffic statistics revealed 572,228 total passengers, with the major uses being commercial aviation, corporate aviation and general aviation. Using a chart, he showed, the passenger traffic growth for Fiscal Years 2002 - 2007.

Regarding community benefits, based on a 2006 economic impact study by the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, the Asheville Airport has a total of 2,466 jobs, an annual economic impact of \$238,349,900 and an annual payroll of \$22,172,300. The Airport also provides the County with a significant source of property tax revenue with 134 based aircraft at a calculated value of \$63,200,000, which would result in ad valorem taxes of \$372,800 based on the County rate of \$0.59 per \$100. This study estimated that there were 174,250 visitors to the area that utilized the Asheville Regional Airport.

He then reviewed the financial information, outlining the revenue/expenses, net income during Fiscal Year 2002 through 2007, and the proposed budget.

There are 23 non-stop flights to 8 hub cities: Atlanta, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Detroit, Houston, Newark, Orlando and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Those flights are on 4 commercial air carriers: Continental (11%), Delta (43%), US Airways (34%) and Northwest (12%).

New/additional hub service opportunities include: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Memphis and Washington, D.C. New non-stop service opportunities include: Boston, Chicago, Ft. Lauderdale/Miami, Tampa and Washington, D.C.

New customer service initiatives include (1) a Guest Services Program for Fiscal Year 2007-08 (ground transportation coordination; luggage assistance/skycap/porter service; airline assistance; place to obtain area information/maps directions; paging; services - stamps, shipping, faxing, copies; lost and found; and meeting point for large groups); (2) Arts in the Airport Program - (a) The inclusion of arts in the public eye adds immensely to the dimension, depth and character of a community; it inspires our youth, fortifies local identity, and adds to the quality of life; (b) A changing art exhibit will distinguish the Asheville Regional Airport and help integrate it more fully into the culture of the region; (c) The display of art in the terminal will make a unique contribution to the experience of travelers by educating them about Western North Carolina area and creating

an aesthetically pleasing environment; (d) additionally, a changing art exhibit will allow for a variety of artwork by many different area artists to be displayed throughout the year, giving the terminal a fresh look with each new rotation of art; and (e) another amenity providing a more pleasing terminal as an enhanced traveler experience; (3) Art Gallery location and remodeling (a) former Welcome Center location; (b) includes art in various mediums (sculpture, paintings); and (c) \$50,000 of improvements including: remodeling of space, insurance, printing, publicity; air/dust collectors, pedestals/vitrines for sculpture; and signage.

Councilman Freeborn explained the development of the Airport, explaining the \$22,149,660 2007-08 capital improvement program. The Airport Authority is under contract with PBS&J/GreenPlan for a Land Use Planning Study. The Land Use Study will address land use planning for the north, east, south and west areas of the Airport. In addition to a Land Use Plan, the deliverables will provide the Airport Authority with marketing and development materials. The Plan will provide the Airport Authority with a proper guide to the future development of both aviation and non-aviation Airport property.

Regarding environmental initiatives, the Airport Authority is installing electrical based (1) pre-conditioning air systems for heating and cooling aircraft at the gates; and fixed ground power systems for the provision of electrical service to aircraft at the gates. This will eliminate the need for the majority of flights for PC Air and Ground Power to be supplied by fossil fuel based units, thereby improving overall air quality at the Airport.

The Airport Authority is working with Land-of-Sky, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, DNER, and Clean Water Management Trust Fund on the potential for the establishment of a conservation easement on Airport property along the French Broad River. Potential for grant funds that may be used for other property acquisition if such property is included in the conservation easement. Conservation easement would allow for bike and walking trails. In addition, this would be a great opportunity to give back to the community.

Regarding an independent Airport Authority, draft legislation has been submitted through the House, sponsored by Representative Goforth. This legislation will enable the City, County and Airport Authority to work out the details of proposed legislation while preserving the ability for action to be taken during the 2007 legislative session. Over the next 60 days City and Airport Authority staff are completing an analysis of valuation alternatives of the Airport land and the City's original dollar investment in the purchase of land for the Airport. Alternative governance structures are also being evaluated.

In response to Councilman Newman regarding passenger traffic, Councilman Freeborn said that we are above the 2001 numbers across the board throughout the county.

Responding to Councilman Davis, Councilman Freeborn explained how they are constantly monitoring pricing.

Mayor Bellamy made a couple of suggestions for the airport terminal, being (1) a sign be placed stating that drinks cannot be taken through security; and (2) an additional television set be placed in the back waiting room due to the size of the waiting area. She thanked the Airport Authority for going wireless and for the increased landscaping.

#### **IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

##### **A. PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO REZONING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 253 BILTMORE AVENUE FROM REGIONAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TO CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**

**ORDINANCE NO. 3456 - ORDINANCE TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED  
AT 253 BILTMORE AVENUE FROM REGIONAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TO  
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**

Mayor Bellamy opened the public hearing at 6:13 p.m.

Urban Planner Alan Glines said that this is the consideration of an ordinance to rezone property located at 253 Biltmore Avenue from Regional Business District to Central Business District. This public hearing was advertised on March 16 and 23, 2006.

The parcel requesting rezoning is located on the busy Biltmore corridor. The current use is a commercial automobile repair business with a one-story building. The owners have requested the rezoning because the change would be in-line with their personal goals and with the anticipated long term growth and redevelopment of the Central Business District (CBD). Over the years the CBD has expanded and moved southward. About six years ago the CBD was expanded to its present boundary adjacent to this parcel. In 2005 and 2006 the Downtown Commission presented a proposal for a wording amendment to the CBD and expanded the design review overlay area to include all properties that are located in the CBD. The proposal was approved by City Council in April 2006. During that time the Downtown Commission discussed expanding the CBD boundary south to incorporate the Regional Business District properties leading to the Institutional zoned hospital campus. No action was taken at the time to pursue that initiative. The other changes to the CBD were the first priority. The property that is the subject of this request was in that CBD expansion consideration. Properties to the north of the proposed parcel are zoned CBD.

The Regional Business District is established to provide areas for large scale commercial operations. The district is not intended to create strip-style commercial centers but rather a concentration of commercial uses with a coordinated design theme. This district is designed to be located around the intersections of high traffic volume thoroughfares such as interstate highways and arterial roads. While the automobile and transit are the primary modes of transportation, pedestrian connections are also noted as important considerations.

The Central Business District is established to reinforce the downtown as the urban center of Asheville and western North Carolina by encouraging private and public investment to preserve the district as the primary retail, office, hotel, institutional, cultural, entertainment center of the community. A high priority is placed on design, integrating new uses into and with existing architecture in a cohesive manner. Development balances pedestrian circulation and streetscape requirements with the automobile circulation and efficiency. Development in the CBD has the potential to embody the smart growth and sustainable development policies adopted by the City.

Based on the above findings and the analysis provided in the report, staff finds this request to be reasonable.

This rezoning was recommended for approval by a 5-0 vote by the Planning and Zoning Commission. No one spoke during the public hearing regarding the rezoning proposal.

Pros:

- Staff and the Downtown Commission have discussed expanding the CBD to include this RB zone southward to the Institutional Zoning, although no action was taken to initiate this change.
- Development in the CBD is expected to expand into this area as the Biltmore Avenue corridor redevelops.
- The comprehensive plan and smart growth policies encourage opportunities for high-density infill growth and redevelopment.

Con: No items of concern are noted regarding this request.

The Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend approval of the request by a vote of 5-0. Staff concurs with this recommendation.

2007		
Festival Area	Recommendations	Financial Impact/Considerations

Mayor Bellamy closed the public hearing at 6:16 p.m.

Councilman Davis hoped that the Central Business District be extended down Biltmore Avenue as the corridor redevelops.

Mayor Bellamy said that members of Council have previously received a copy of the ordinance and it would not be read.

Councilwoman Cape moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3456. This motion was seconded by Councilman Mumpower and carried unanimously.

#### **ORDINANCE BOOK NO. 23 - PAGE**

#### **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **A. BELE CHERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT**

Ms. Debi Smith, Chair of the 2007 Bele Chere Board of Directors, presented the recommendations for formal adoption by City Council as a result of the Bele Chere Community Forum.

The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations to City Council on behalf of the Bele Chere Board of Directors as a result of community input on how to enhance the City's Bele Chere festival. Approximately 75 citizens participated in the Bele Chere Community Forum on January 30, 2007, to develop a consensus on two key questions related to Bele Chere. In addition, more than 100 citizens provided their input in writing.

The Bele Chere Board of Directors was charged with reviewing the feedback at a board retreat in order to make recommendations to City Council for modifying the festival to ensure it represented what citizens want in a community festival. Based on citizen input, the board has developed recommendations related to three key community goals. The board's recommendations are further organized by suggestions that can be implemented in the 2007 festival, potential suggestions warranting further review for the 2008 festival and suggestions that would be reviewed and researched as part of long range strategic planning for the event.

She reviewed the following recommendations:

#### **Community Goal: Make Bele Chere more local and reflective of Asheville's unique character.**

Music & Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Changing WNC band selection from 25% to 35% of total band composition.</li><li>▪ Changing Regional band selection from 35% to 45%.</li><li>▪ Changing National band selection from 40% to 20%.</li></ul>	No financial implications
-----------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------

Arts & Crafts	Award more points for local artists in selection process	No financial implications
Arts & Crafts	Make selection committee all local artists	No financial implications
Kids Activities	Reduce cost of kids' rides by 20% and incorporate local Appalachian history educational activities	No financial implications; vendor is amenable to reducing cost to public
Food & Beverage	Implement pilot program for a local microbrewery beverage booth	No financial implications
Impact on local business	Move stage to N. Lexington and Hiawassee to support Lexington revitalization and LAMA	No financial implications
Impact on local business	Hold merchant meetings to promote \$50 booth space for entire festival	No financial implications
<b>2008</b>		
Food & Beverage	Add additional local food booths (Reduce fee for local vendors from \$1800 to \$500 per booth)	Revenue loss of \$1,300 per booth space with a potential loss of \$80,000
Food & Beverage	Evaluate microbrewery pilot program and expand if successful for local brewers	No financial implications
<b>Long-term Strategic Planning</b>		
Music & Entertainment	Renegotiate talent buyer contract in 2009 and open to local and regional promoters	TBD

**Community Goal: Change the Date of the Festival.**

<b>Long-term Strategic Planning</b>		
<b>Festival Area</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Financial Impact/Considerations</b>
Date of festival	Analyze financial impact of moving date to alternative times of year. Work in partnership with CVB to determine optimal dates and impact on festival revenue.	TBD

**Community Goal: Explore funding models and sponsorship opportunities to reduce financial burden on taxpayers.**

<b>2007</b>
-------------

<b>Festival Area</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Financial Impact/Considerations</b>
Festival Operations & Financing	Work with festival experts to evaluate 2007 festival and provide recommendations for long-term financial viability and sustainable operations with the goal of reducing tax burden.	\$20,000 fee for services
Festival Operations & Financing	Reduce expenses in festival budget by 20% for FY07-08 budget.	Less funding dedicated to securing entertainment acts and less contingency in budget.
<b>2008</b>		
Sponsorships	Evaluate possibility of contracting with an outside sponsorship agency to attract new festival partners.	Potential to increase revenue from sponsorships.

The board is also committed to continuing to focus on festival areas that the community values most. These areas include:

- Fostering community pride through volunteerism and nonprofit organization involvement
- A free festival with free music
- The quality and diversity of music
- Visibility of the region

The Board recommends: (1) City Council formally adopt the 2007 suggestions that have no financial impact; (2) direct staff to provide Council with more information within 60 days in order to develop recommendations to reduce taxpayer burden; and (3) City Council direct staff to come back to City Council in December to provide additional information and recommendations for 2008 and long term strategic planning. This will allow time for additional research and review as well as an opportunity to evaluate how specific changes impact the 2007 festival.

Ms. Smith and Ms. Melissa Porter, Festival Coordinator for the City of Asheville, responded to various questions/comments from Council, some being, but are not limited to: if the date of the festival move, in what year would that take place; what kind of information would we get from the festival consultant; do other festivals have brand names; when the expenses are reduced, is there a corresponding reduction of revenues; and what are some of the environmental changes that could be made.

Councilman Davis was not particularly interested in making Bele Chere bigger and better and would like to try some of the recommendations that came out of the forum. Until those ideas are tried, he would not be supportive of hiring a festival expert.

Councilman Mumpower was concerned about spending \$20,000 for a festival consultant since Asheville has good people who are familiar with this festival.

Vice-Mayor Jones felt there are a lot of variables in the size of the festival, e.g., making it shorter by two hours, quit selling alcohol earlier, etc., noting that bigger is not always better. She felt that the festival might benefit from a finance subcommittee and she would be happy to talk with the Bele Chere Board further about that.

Mr. Dwight Butner, President of the Downtown Association and downtown property owner, offered two suggestions: (1) stopping the event in earlier in the evening; and (2)

boundaries of festival be expanded with the view that no operating retail establishment be blocked from the streets by booths or staging.

Councilman Mumpower moved to adopt the 2007 recommendations as follows: (1) increase percentage of required local/regional acts; (2) award more points to local artists in selection process and make selection committee all local artists; (3) reduce cost of kids rides 20% and offer Appalachian history educational activities; (4) pilot microbrewery beverage booth; (5) move stage to N. Lexington and Hiawasse to support revitalization; and (5) hold merchant meetings to promote \$50 booth space for entire festival. This motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Jones and carried unanimously.

Councilman Davis moved to not spend \$20,000 to contract with festival experts to evaluate the 2007 festival and develop recommendations for reducing taxpayer contribution. This motion was seconded by Councilman Mumpower and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Cape said that since one of the national "green" festival organizers is here in Asheville she suggested they be invited to a Bele Chere Board meeting to give us some hints about how we can do a better job with that.

It was the consensus of Council to direct staff to come back to City Council in December to provide additional information and recommendations for 2008 and long term strategic planning, along with (1) a review of Mr. Butner's suggestions being incorporated into the results; and (2) a review of a finance subcommittee for the Bele Chere Board.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**VIII. INFORMAL DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. David Allen Wilson, Asheville resident, urged Council to take appropriate measures to reduce crime in downtown Asheville by placing police officers where we currently have crime.

Rev. Christopher Chiaronmonte spoke about the lack of concern the City has towards the homeless.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Bellamy adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

---

CITY CLERK

---

MAYOR